

NIDIS Pilot Drought Early Warning System in California

Planning Meeting, September 23, 2010

Round Table Discussions

Drought Information Activities

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

1. Provide brief overview of activities and responsibilities

Tell us about yourself -

What are your interests, activities, and responsibilities with respect to drought?

What are your biggest drought concerns - how do you currently cope with them?

What types of drought decisions do you or others make?

How does drought information contribute to these decisions, or to overall preparedness and response?

2. Provide details on each type of drought information produced or used.

(a) variable (e.g., precipitation, snowpack, streamflow, etc.)

(b) format (e.g., maps, charts, databases, etc.)

(c) temporal scale (e.g., three-month anomaly, daily average, seasonal forecast, etc.)

(d) spatial scale (e.g., climate division, station, watershed, etc.)

(e) how produced (e.g., data sources, calculations, frequency, people involved, etc.)

(g) how used (e.g., drought decisions, frequency of use, value of information, etc.)

(h) sources of information, and references (e.g., websites, databases, etc.)

Drought Information Needs

10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

1. Identify general needs: for certain types of decisions or planning activities, and for early warning

What are some of your biggest problems in dealing with droughts?

In an ideal world, what information would you like to have, but don't currently have, for dealing with these problems or for making decisions?

Let's think big: If you were to have the ideal "early warning system," what would that be? What does "early warning" mean to you?

2. Identify specific needs: for certain types of drought information.

What specific types of information do you need?

Is this type of information currently available, but not in the format (or other aspects) needed?

How would this information need to be modified to make it more useful to you?

If you had this information, in what ways would it be used?

What information do you wish you could access on the Drought Portal?

What information could you share through the Drought Portal?